Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—" May I know with reference to the statement in Appendix II, how many candidates from the Andhra Desa have applied for these posts ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " No information. "

Saadar

Stationery

Purchase of khaki drill.

* 237 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Superintendent of Stationery called for quotations recently for the supply of 7,000 yards of khaki drill from manufacturing firms in the Presidency;

(*b*) if so, which are the firms from which quotations were received and what was the price quoted by them; and

(*c*) at what price did the Superintendent finally book the order and with whom?

A.—(*a*) Quotations were invited by the Superintendent of Stationery for the supply of 5,200 yards only of khaki drill.

(*b*) The tenders received were confidential and Government regret they cannot see their way to divulge the contents.

(*c*) The order was booked at the rate of As. 7-9 per yard with the Central Jail, Coimbatore.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" May I know whether it is a fact or not that Messrs. Binny & Co. tendered for far cheaper price than the price at which the Stationery Superintendent accepted the goods from the Central Jail ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " Notice. "

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" Why should the Government treat the tenders as confidential ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " Because some of the firms in order to get the patronage of Government give them special cheap rates and it will not be fair to disclose them. "

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" When a rate thus tendered was cheaper, why should they not accept it ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " All those things were considered before coming to a decision. "

Mr. Yakub Hasan :—" Is there anything wrong in disclosing their names ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur :— "If notice is given, I shall consider the suggestion."

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Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—" May I repeat the question why, if certain rates were cheaper, the Government should not accept them ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
" Because the Coimbatore Jail is a Government institution to which we must give preference. "

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—" When the rates were cheaper, why should not the contract be given to a private individual ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
" Because the Coimbatore Jail belongs to Government. "

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—" May I know whether there are many offers which are lower than the rate that has been thus accepted by Government ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
" I do not think so.

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—" None at all ? "

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know whether it is not a rule laid down by Government that, when two tenders give the same price, then only the Government institute should be given preference and not otherwise? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
" The position is quite different here."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—" By how much was the rate accepted more than the cheapest rate ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
" Notice. "

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" I should like to know from the hon. the Home Member whether it is not laid down by Government that when same rates are offered for a certain article by different tenders, the Government Jail or other industrial institution should be preferred and not otherwise ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
" There is no such definite rule. "

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—" Is it suggested that private firms should not compete with Government institutions, like the Central Jail ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
" This is all for purposes of Government supply. "

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—" Is it the policy of Government to kill private enterprise ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
" We do not want to kill private enterprise; we want to encourage our own articles. "

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Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know whether the rate accepted here was equivalent to the lowest tender or a little more or less ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:— "Perhaps it was a little more. As I have stated the principle is to encourage our own institutes. "

Mr. F. E. James:—" I should like to know from the hon. the Home Member whether all things being equal it is the general policy of the Government to give preference to quotations from Government enterprises over quotations from private enterprises ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:— " We must try to encourage our own institution as far as possible. But we do not want in any way to discourage private enterprise."

Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur:—" How can both these things be reconciled ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:— " In this case it is our own institution which we want to encourage. "

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I know whether tenders, even after they are opened, remain confidential? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:— " They are confidential. "

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—" Are not the rates known to the other tenderers ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:— " I do not know. "

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" Under what rule or law tenders, even after they are opened, are considered confidential ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:— " As I have already said, the reason why I refuse to disclose them is that in order to get Government patronage some firms might have quoted special rates, and it will not be fair to them to publish them. "

Mr. F. E. James:—" In view of the answer given by the hon. the Home Member, I should like to ask a further question: in view of the fact that the normal way of encouraging a private enterprise is to accept tenders from them when they are reasonably low, should not Government allow fair play to such enterprises when they come in competition with Government quotations ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur:— " Four years ago, I myself when I was in charge of the Jails, passed an order to that effect. In this case there are special reasons for accepting this contract. "

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Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—" What are those special reasons ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:— " We want to encourage our own industry. "

Cinchona

Estimate for opening the Cinchona plantation in the Anamalais.

* 238 *Q.*—Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the total estimate for opening the cinchona plantations on the Anamalais and how many acres were opened in 1928, 1929 and 1930 and when the first year's planting will come to bearing;

(*b*) what is the failure in the above year's plantings;

(*c*) what remedies were taken to arrest the spread of 'die back' pest in the plantations and nurseries;

(*d*) whether there are proposals before the Government to stop further plantations of cinchona on the Anamalais;

(*e*) whether the hon. Member has ever visited these plantations both in the Anamalais and Nilgiris;

(*f*) what are the facts ascertained by the Government regarding the future usefulness of the plantations; and

(*g*) what was the estimated damage to the plantations during the heavy rains in October-November 1929 and in 1930?

A.—(*a*) The total estimate under the sanctioned scheme for the first ten years working is just under 15 lakhs. Recently, however, estimates modifying the scheme have been submitted and are under consideration. They involve an expenditure of Rs. $8\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs from 1925 to 1938.

The area planted in the past three years is as follows:—

1928	230 acres.
1929	6 ,,
1930	180 ,,

The first year's planting is now yielding a small amount of bark but it is hoped it will increase rapidly hereafter.

(*b*) By the end of this planting season the position will be as follows:—

1928	Nil.
1929	Nil.
1930	About 10 acres.

(*c*) Extensive spraying is now adopted both in the planted areas and in the nurseries. Continuous rain which amounts to 76 inches in one month is a contributory cause of 'die back' but draining, as far as funds permit, is being done.

(*d*) Government have under consideration a revised scheme limiting the acreage to be planted.